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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION OCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADS-00 CA-01 L-03 H-02 SY-05 SYE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1951

UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 0306

E.O. 12065: NA
TAGS: CASC, ASEC PINS PINT ES
SUBJ: DISAPPEARANCE OF U.S. CITIZEN JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF STATE 007952

1. CONOFF SPOKE PERSONALLY WITH MOTHER OF JOHN J. SULLIVAN TODAY AND ASSURED HER THAT EMBASSY CONTINUES TO TRACE THE WHEREABOUTS OF HER SON. AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION INVOLVING PAO AND CONOFF VISITS TO THE NATIONAL POLICE, HOSPITALS, HOTEL SHERATON, CAR RENTAL AGENCIES AS WELL AS INTERVIEWS OF TAXI DRIVERS, HOTEL CLERKS, WAITRESSES, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, MISSIONARIES AND AIRLINE PERSONNEL HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT WITH NO CLUES WHATSOEVER.

2. A COMPLETE INVENTORY OF SULLIVAN'S EFFECTS AND EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN MAILED TO HIS PARENTS WITH A COPY POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT. ALSO MAILED WAS COPY OF SIGNATURE ON OUTSTANDING HOTEL BILL. EFFECTS ARE IN CUSTODY OF HOTEL MANAGER AND WILL BE RELEASED WHEN EMBASSY PRESENTS POWER OF ATTORNEY AND QUESTION OF OUTSTANDING BILL IS SETTLED.

3. POST REQUESTS THAT PARENTS DRAW UP POWER OF ATTORNEY NAMING U.S. CONSUL RESPONSIBLE FOR CLAIMING EFFECTS AND PAYING BILL IN SON'S NAME. DEPARTMENT IS ALSO REQUESTED TO INSTRUCT MR. AND MRS. SULLIVAN ON HOW TO FORWARD FUNDS THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

4. CONOFF HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT OF TACA WHO AGREES TO PROVIDE CREW AND FLIGHT MANIFEST. UNFORTUNATELY, EMBASSY PERSONNEL SHORTAGE DOES NOT PERMIT AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION OF ALL PERSONS ON BOARD SAME FLIGHT. HOWWEVER, IF SULLIVANS EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO HIRE A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, POST WILL ASSIST HIM IN OBTAINING NAMES OF PASSENGERS.

5. POST WOULD LIKE DEPARTMENT TO EXPLAIN DIFFICULTIES OF CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION AT NIGHT DUE TO CURRENT CURFEW WHICH STARTS AT 7 P.M. AND ENDS AT 5 A.M. ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT RESTAURANT OWNERS AND NIGHT SHIFT TAXI DRIVERS IS NOW VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE SINCE VIOLATION OF CURFEW WOULD MEAN CERTAIN DEATH. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE POST OF ANY FURTHER STEPS IT FEELS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN THIS INVESTIGATION.
WHITE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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1981 JAN 14 PM 8:25
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